

term limits. [*Laughter*] Coach, a word of caution—[*laughter*—winning this trophy is supposed to be a struggle, not a hobby. [*Laughter*] And the truth is, if you spend any more time in Washington, the folks back in Colorado Springs are going to start saying you're out of touch. [*Laughter*]

I love Coach DeBerry's motto: Faith, family, and Falcons. This is a man who has his priorities straight. And they must be, because he's not just recruiting football talent; he's recruiting character. He's not just recruiting to win football games; he's recruiting to win our Nation's wars, if we have one.

These seniors know that conference titles, bowl victories, and trophies are not nearly as important as the solemn oath they will take in just a few weeks as newest officers in the world's finest Air Force. Today we honor the history that you've made on the playing field. But we look forward to even more of the history you will make serving our Nation.

Coach DeBerry, if the past is prologue, I suspect you, too, will have a bright future. And you've got an opener next season with another team that recently visited the White House, the mighty Oklahoma Sooners. And my hope is that you try to soften them up a bit before they play the Texas teams. [*Laughter*]

But it's my honor to congratulate you, and congratulations in advance for the service you will render to our fabulous Nation.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. at the South Portico at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Fisher DeBerry, football coach, U.S. Air Force Academy. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Coach DeBerry.

Remarks Honoring the 2000 World Series Champion New York Yankees *May 4, 2001*

Thank you. Please sit down. Well, it's my honor to welcome the mighty Yanks to the Rose Garden, a team that broke my heart many a time, as the owner of the Texas Rangers. [*Laughter*]

I'm so glad you all are here, and I appreciate the mayor being here—the Yankees'

number one fan—and members of the congressional delegation who are here, as well. Thank you all for coming.

It's good to see my old fellow owner, "the Boss." [*Laughter*] What a record you've had. A man who demands excellence and often-times gets it. [*Laughter*] But thank you for coming, George. I know the real boss of the Yankees is here, too, Arthur Richman. [*Laughter*] How are you, Arthur? Good to see you. I told you one of these days we would get to the White House. Just don't take any silverware, Arthur. [*Laughter*]

It's good to see Randy and Brian Cashman. Thank you all for coming. I am—I understand something about baseball. It not only takes great players to win a championship, it takes a great manager, too. And I know all sports fans are impressed by the class of Joe Torre. What a heck of a man he is. And Don Zimmer, you're not so bad, either. [*Laughter*]

But one of the things everybody forgets about Joe is that he was a pretty darn good player himself. Thirty years ago, he led the National League with a .363 batting average, 137 RBIs, and it's sure good to welcome you back here, Joe. [*Laughter*]

And there are fellow Texans on this team, and around here that counts for something. [*Laughter*] So it's good to see "the Rocket," a friend of my family's Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, and Chuck Knoblauch.

I—something about the Yankees. It's one of the greatest names in sport. It's a tradition and a powerful tradition. I mean, you put on a uniform, it's just not work clothes; it's the uniform that Ruth wore or Gehrig wore, and you all have kept up that tradition. And for that, you need to be congratulated.

It's interesting that we're hosting the great Yanks here in the Rose Garden, and then this Sunday there's a little different celebration taking place. It's a baseball celebration. But on the other side of the driveway down there, we've set up a tee-ball park. And it's a chance for moms and dads to bring tee-ball teams to celebrate the great sport of baseball right here on the hallowed grounds of the White House. Yankee Stadium is hallowed grounds, so is the White House.

What's going to be interesting about that day is there is going to be some little kid

trying to adjust his batting gloves just like Jeter does, or somebody trying to look like Mariano Rivera or somebody trying to emulate the swing of Tino Martinez. That's what's going to happen.

And as a reminder to those who are on the field that a lot of kids look at you, they really do. And there's a lot of parents pulling for the Yanks to be champs not only on the field but off the field. And there's no question in my mind that these Yanks will rise to both occasions.

Welcome to the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:32 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; George Steinbrenner III, principal owner, Arthur Richman, senior adviser, Randy Levine, president, Brian Cashman, senior vice president and general manager, Joe Torre, manager, Don Zimmer, assistant manager, Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, and Mariano Rivera, pitchers, Chuck Knoblauch, outfielder, Derek Jeter, shortstop, and Tino Martinez, first baseman, New York Yankees.

Remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Celebration

May 4, 2001

Thank you all. We welcome you to this Cinco de Mayo celebration, even though it's on the *cuatro de Mayo*. [Laughter] But it's such an important holiday, we decided to start early.

I really appreciate *El Embajador de Mexico*, Juan Jose Bremer. Thank you for your kind words, thank you for your leadership, and welcome.

I appreciate so very much Thalia for being here. I am thankful that she did not ask me to dance. [Laughter] But I loved her voice and loved her music. Pablo Montero. Thank you very much, Pablo, for coming. We will treasure that beautiful gift you gave to Laura, via me. [Laughter]

It is a pleasure to see my friend Don Francisco. I had the honor of interviewing with Don Francisco before. He's a good man. And finally *por fin, mi amigo* Emilio Estefan. Emilio, thank you very much for coming. He's lucky we didn't let him in without Gloria. [Laughter] I know you join me in thank-

ing the fantastic dancers and the mariachis. It's such beautiful music, and the White House is blessed by your presence.

Some in my administration are here that I must introduce. Hector Barreto, he's going to make fine leader of the Small Business Administration; Eduardo Aguirre, who is going to be a senior official at the Export-Import Bank—Eduardo. Rosario Marin is here; she is going to be the Treasurer of the United States. We could go on all day long, but there's one other fellow I want to introduce. He's a friend of Mexico. He's a great United States Senator. The Senator from the State of New Mexico, Pete Domenici. Is Ed Pastor here? I don't see Ed.

Today we remember a proud moment for the people of Mexico, when Mexican soldiers won the Battle of Puebla. When the news of that victory reached this house, it was recognized and recorded by Abraham Lincoln. Then, and for many years afterwards, the United States and Mexico lived two very different histories, often divided by misperceptions and mistrust. It's changed.

The United States and Mexico now share ties of history, *familia*, values, commerce, and culture. We are more united in friendship and common purpose than ever before. Just yesterday I had yet another visit with my friend *El Presidente* Vicente Fox. This is the third time my friend and I have had a chance to dialog about the incredibly important relationship between the United States and Mexico. And I hope people take note that in a few months he'll come back as the honored guest of the first state dinner I will have as President of the United States. We have worked together as Governors; we will work together as Presidents. And we'll always work in the spirit of mutual respect.

Cinco de Mayo is a day for special pride and remembrance for people on—it's a reminder of the pride—of the proud heritage of many Americans and the warm and growing friendship between two great nations. It's a day worth celebrating.

I want to thank you all for coming. Laura and I welcome you, so pleased so many folks came.

Again, I want to thank the fantastic artists who are here. *Mi Casa Blanca es su Casa Blanca. Adios.*